

Fire Prevention Week is a time not only to think about our own safety, but also to show our appreciation to the brave men and women who risk their safety in our Nation's fire services. Too often, their dedication results in the ultimate sacrifice. Last year, 80 firefighters died in the line of duty and more than 97,000 were injured. These courageous men and women will be honored on Sunday, October 10, 1993, during the Twelfth Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

We should also recognize the members of the other public and private organizations that are working toward our shared goal of fire safety, including the American Burn Association, the American Red Cross, the Congressional Fire Service Institute, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the National Volunteer Fire Council. The efforts of these and other organizations working for fire safety will be greatly enhanced if we as individual citizens learn and practice fire-safe behavior. I also commend the efforts of public officials, fire-fighters, educators, business leaders, and the community and volunteer organizations who are working together to bring about a safer America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 3, 1993, as Fire Prevention Week. I call upon the people of the United States to plan and actively participate in fire prevention activities not only this week, but throughout the year. I also ask all Americans to pay tribute to those firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our safety.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6602 of October 4, 1993

Child Health Day, 1993

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Our children are our future. Therefore, making sure that our children are healthy must be a national concern. For 65 years, Presidents of the United States have proclaimed one day every year as "Child Health Day," a time to focus on the health and well-being of our Nation's children. Over the years, we have recognized again and again that it is better to try to guarantee the health of our children than to attempt to restore their health once it has been jeopardized. A healthy childhood charts a path for a healthy adult life. Prevention is, therefore, primary.

Through preventive measures, we help children avoid the pain and suffering of disease and disability; we stop unnecessary spending; and we decrease the number of childhood deaths.

We possess the ability to prevent many childhood diseases and injuries, and we must use this ability. Every child needs access to primary health care. The necessary immunizations against nine different contagious diseases must be given to children at the recommended ages. Injuries, the greatest threat to our children's well-being, can be reduced by introducing into our daily routines various safety measures. For example, the use of car seats, seat belts, and bicycle helmets helps to guard against hazards to which children are especially vulnerable. There are dangers in the home, as well, such as careless storage of poisons and unlocked staircase gates. Paying attention to our children and to potential risks to their safety can help to safeguard them in our homes.

We can prevent our children from making unhealthy choices, both by the rules we set for them and by the rules we follow ourselves. Many of the behaviors that will affect their health—choices about what to eat; the dangers of smoking, drinking, using illegal drugs, or irresponsible sexual behavior; how to handle their feelings and the pressure of their peers—will be learned from the models they see around them. We have an opportunity, as well as a responsibility, to shape the future for our children. In our personal lives, that responsibility extends to those whose lives we touch in our families and in our communities.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 143), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 4, 1993, as Child Health Day. On that day and every day throughout the year, I urge all Americans to renew their commitment to protecting and developing our most valuable asset—our children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6603 of October 5, 1993

Mental Illness Awareness Week, 1993

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Almost 50 million Americans have serious emotional disorders or illnesses. The economic and human costs of these disorders are staggering. Treatment expenses and lost productivity cost the United States over one hundred billion dollars a year. The pain and suffering caused